

"The young have always deviated from the older standards" (Verma). Generation gaps, or simply differences between generations, are by definition inevitable phenomena that occur in society. These gaps in society occur because humans adapt and adjust to a changing environment. As our society evolves, there is a natural tendency for humans to change their wants, needs, likes, and dislikes. These changes are necessary in order for society to progress. A generation gap has developed in society today from a variety of factors including the impact of technological innovations, aesthetic differences, and the evolution of the media.

The literal definition of technology is the use of knowledge to progress or solve a problem. Because technology is constantly developing, a generation gap is truly unavoidable. It is expected that the young will adapt into more global human beings who experience new cultures and communicate in new forms of media. The world is virtually becoming smaller, due to these technological innovations (Verma). One major invention that has impacted the younger generation is the Television. Televisions today are magnificent. With high definition, recording capabilities, cable, satellite, color, and a wide array of channel options, there is no limit to the possibilities of television. The television that the older generation remembers is quite different. There were fewer channels, many available in only black and white, and the television was physically much smaller. Due to these many differences, a large generation gap has developed regarding entertainment and the morals derived from it. The differences in the ways the generations embrace this technology are also quite apparent. In a survey taken by CBS news, "About 75% of adults went online daily, compared with 40% of those 65 to 74 and

about 16% for people 75 and older." These results show that older generations are having a harder time adjusting to changing technology.

"You talk to me like I don't know what [Twitter] is. I know what it is. You have to start up the Internet to get on Twitter (making the universal sign for turning a key in the ignition when he said the words 'start up the Internet')" (Halpern). This quote is said by a father to his son in the book, Sh*t my Dad Says, but it really represents a gap between the two generations. The son cites his father's response to point out his father's state of oblivion and true lack of knowledge about the Internet. The Internet has had the largest effect of widening the generation gap. With its variety of uses, it is the most influential technological innovation in society today. The Internet has caused a technology revolution in the younger generation. From Facebook to Wikipedia, and everything in between, teens use the internet every day. There are even sites aimed specifically at children. The Internet today is truly an "endless stream of daily documentation that is built into the life of anyone growing up today" (Nussbaum). The younger generation uses the Internet daily, and their morals regarding privacy have been highly impacted by this use. The Internet has also allowed children to develop a greater sense of freedom. One survey noted that the internet "offers children a source of independence...a way to explore the world" (Online Gap). These differences in morals have been noted as major differences between generations. Therefore, these technological innovations directly lead to a increase in the width of the generation gap in society today.

Pictures and videos from the past and today show one extremely obvious differences between the two generations: aesthetics. The way children dress and look

are some of the most obvious, yet important factors in widening a generation gap.

Appearances often reflect how one feels and their morals. When the older generation was younger, they were much more conservative, and it was reflected in their clothing. They dressed in a way that was socially acceptable at that time. With the recognition of women's and African American's rights, the socially acceptable ideas about dress have changed. The use of clothing and makeup as a way of self – expression has become extremely popular. The evolution of clothing shows a deliberate shift from a conservative to liberal attitude. In 1969, "At the height of hippiedom, there was [Ali] MacGraw as the preppy princess, as well as Dustin Hoffman in *The Graduate* [1967] as the preppy prince, proving that classics are never out" (Rubenstein). This conservative style transformed throughout history into the show stopping clothing people wear today as stars like Madonna, Britney, and now Lady Gaga shape the public into expressing themselves. (Rubenstein) These stars encouraged a movement into liberal dressing that really helps widen the current generation gap. There are even more recent trends that only work to increase the gap. In 2001, tennis' Anna Kournikova wore a miniskirt to compete. Soon after she made headlines, major designers trimmed their hemlines to match. (Lucky) This specific change recognizes a fashion choice that traditionally the young embrace and the old denounce. In November 2001, "The first Victoria's Secret fashion show airs on television. Ratings – and complaints to the FCC – go through the roof" (Lucky). This was the ultimate step into changing the standards of dress. Women's transition into freedom allowed for changes in the social acceptance of this revealing show. Because these standards have changed, the generation gap has only grown.

The last factor that causes a generation gap to develop is changes in the media. Music, because of the growing technology, is able to rapidly change and new songs are continually released. The first most obvious change between the two generations is the introduction of the CD and MP3 player. Older generations grew up with records and record players. Music was not something that was readily available. Because of the technology, kids today have the ease of simply downloading a song and within minutes can listen it to it in the headphones wherever they are. This ease definitely causes the generation gap to widen. Not only have the forms of music changed, but the types and genres have also. When the art form of rap/hip – hop was introduced, it revolutionized the music business. The music business today is one dominated by the African American community. Once again, the impact of the civil rights movement is quite apparent. To many in the old generation, the music of today is simply noise to them, lacking rhythm and the softer melodies of the past. "People are fixated on the music of their youth...the tastes keep changing...it is unavoidable and can't be stopped" (Verma). No matter what, the two generations will never agree on what is good music. Because of this, a generation gap is inevitable. With the continuing changes in art and music, the gap will only continue to widen.

With the ongoing process of rebirth, there will always be new generations. As society continues to progress and new technological innovations develop, a generation gap will always be prevalent. "The old...are fully convinced that the ideas they have had throughout their lives are the ultimate and ideal. They ignore certain vital factors that are no longer valid in the case of modernity" (Verma). The changes that occur as society

evolves will never allow for complete agreement between generations. A generation gap has developed in society today from a variety of factors including the impact of technological innovations, aesthetic differences, and the evolution of the media. These factors cause society to change in a variety of ways that alters a human's perception of what is right and socially acceptable, and what is good and what is bad. These factors may cause disparities between generations, but they overall allow for positive growth in society.

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